UNITED
NATIONS

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Economic and Social
Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/ECE/1367
28 December 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Fifty-fourth session
(4-6 May 1999)

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FIFTY-FOURTH SESSION

to be held in the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
starting at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, 4 May 1999

1. Adoption of the Agenda

2. Strengthening cooperation within the ECE region

   (a) Consequences of the financial crisis in the ECE region (including an informal seminar)

   (b) Operational activities and cooperation with regional/subregional groupings, initiatives and organizations

3. Implementation of the Reform

   (a) Issues related to the work of the Group of Experts on the Programme of Work with the participation of Principal Subsidiary Bodies

   (b) Exchange of views on cross-sectoral concerns including intersectoral linkages, with the participation of Principal Subsidiary Bodies

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(c) Follow-up to the ECOSOC Resolution relating to the regional commissions

(d) Cooperation with European institutions and Pan-European organizations and sub-regional organizations

4. Matters arising from the work of subsidiary bodies requiring decision by the Commission

5. Proposed Programme Budget for 2000-2001

6. Election of Officers

7. Other business

8. Annual report of the Commission.

EXPLANATORY NOTES TO THE AGENDA AND TIMETABLE

General

1. The dates of 4 to 6 May 1999 have been reserved for the fifty-fourth session of the Commission. In accordance with the Commission's Rules of Procedure, the documents referred to in the Provisional Agenda will, wherever possible, be transmitted to Governments not less than forty-two days before the opening of the session, i.e. not later than 23 March 1999.

2. As part of the ongoing efforts of all concerned to revitalize the sessions of the Commission, and in keeping with the previous session of the Commission, the Bureau recommends that instead of delivering prepared statements, delegations, PSB Chairmen and representatives from other organizations/initiatives limit themselves to specific observations and proposals for action. Any delegation wishing to provide a text for distribution is requested to provide the secretariat, preferably in advance of the Session, with sufficient copies (approximately 70).

3. As decided in the Plan of Action, the annual session will be preceded by a seminar which this year will be on The Economic Implications of the Population Ageing in the ECE Region. The seminar (which will be held on 3 May) will also focus on the link between the management of pension funds and the financial crisis.

4. The first day of the annual session will be devoted to a seminar on the Consequences of the Financial Crisis in the ECE Region. For this purpose, the Bureau suggests that the Commission convert to informal segment. (See below).

Time	Agenda item	Introduction	Explanatory Notes	Documentation
4 May 10 a.m.	**Item 1** Adoption of the agenda	Chairman of the Commission	The adoption of the agenda will be followed by opening remarks by the Chairman of the Commission and the Executive Secretary.	E/ECE/1367 (Agenda)

Time	Agenda item	Introduction	Explanatory Notes	Documentation
4 May a.m. and p.m.	**Item 2:** Strengthening cooperation within the ECE region (a) Consequences of the financial crisis in the ECE region		The Bureau recommends that exceptionally the debate this year be organized as a seminar. It will focus on the Consequences of the Financial Crisis in the ECE Region. For this purpose, the Bureau suggests that the Commission convert to **informal** segment.	
5 May a.m.	Item 2 (a) (continued) (b) Operational activities and cooperation with regional/subregional groupings, initiatives and organizations	Executive Secretary	The Commission would reconvert into **formal** segment for a general debate which will inter alia draw lessons from the discussion of the previous two days. The Commission will have before it a note on the Commission's operational activities.	E/ECE/1368

Time	Agenda item	Introduction	Explanatory Notes	Documentation
5 May p.m.	**Item 3:** Implementation of the reform (a) Issues related to the work of the Group of Experts on the Programme of Work with the participation of Principal Subsidiary Bodies	Chairman of the Group of Experts on the Programme of Work	(a) As agreed at the Ad Hoc Informal Meeting of the Commission, held on 4 December 1998, a second report of the Group of Experts on the Programme of Work will be submitted to the Commission in which, inter alia, the Commission will be provided with information on the results of the consultations held between the Chairman of the Group, the secretariat and Chairpersons of PSBs.	Possible informal note
	(b) Exchange of views on cross-sectoral concerns including intersectoral linkages, with the participation of Principal Subsidiary Bodies		(b) Two of the four cross-sectoral concerns identified in the Plan of Action were discussed at the fifty-third session. As indicated in E/ECE/1358/Rev.1, this year's session will address the outlook for sustainable development and the mainstreaming of the gender perspective.	E/ECE/1369

Time	Agenda item	Introduction	Explanatory Notes	Documentation
5 May p.m.	**Item 3** (continued)			
	(c) Follow-up to ECOSOC Resolution relating to the regional commissions		(c) Under this item the Commission will have before it a brief note on the state of implementation of ECOSOC resolution 1998/46, annex III of which provides guidance to the regional commissions "with respect to improving [their] contributions and relevance in the reform process of the United Nations, in accordance with the mandates and priorities of each of the commissions".	E/ECE/1370
	(d) Cooperation with European institutions and Pan-European organizations and sub-regional organizations		(d) Under this item the Commission will have before it a note which, in view of increasing divergences in Europe and the need to prevent further division, looks at how the concerned institutions/ organizations can best work together to address this challenge.	E/ECE/1371

Time	Agenda item	Introduction	Explanatory Notes	Documentation
6 May a.m.	**Item 4:** Matters arising from the work of subsidiary bodies requiring decision by the Commission	Executive Secretary	Under this item, the Commission will deal with any matters arising from the work of the subsidiary bodies which require decision by the Commission.	To be determined on the basis of any action required.
	Item 5: Proposed programme budget for 2000-2001	Executive Secretary	A briefing will be given on the Secretary-General's proposed programme budget for ECE.	---
	Item 6: Election of officers	Chairman		---
6 May p.m.	**Item 7:** Other business			---
	Item 8: Annual report of the Commission			Draft reports prepared during the Commission session on each item.